



U.S. Department of Justice

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November 19, 2004

MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR BANK FRAUD IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS AND FIVE OTHER STATES

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; and RICHARD K. RUMINSKI, Acting Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **ROGELIO RAMOS**, 24 years of age, also known as Efrain Lopez and Miguel Flores, formerly of Madison, Wisconsin, to 40 months in federal prison without parole for his involvement in a scheme to defraud banks in northern Illinois and in five other states.

On September 15, 2004, Rogelio Ramos ("Ramos") pleaded guilty to bank fraud and admitted that between May 2002 through December 2003, in Marengo, Illinois, and other areas in Illinois, and in Wisconsin, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland and Florida, he and other participants carried out a plan to cheat federally insured banks by cashing counterfeit checks at those banks. According to the plea agreement, Ramos used counterfeit checks made payable to fictitious individuals. Ramos admitted that he and other participants then cashed the checks at banks located near the businesses on whose bank accounts the checks were purportedly drawn. Ramos acknowledged in his plea agreement that he presented false identification documents, such as false Resident Alien Cards, to the banks when cashing the checks. In his plea agreement, Ramos acknowledged that his scheme had caused losses to numerous banks including the First National Bank of Marengo, the Poplar Grove State Bank, Walworth State Bank, Belvidere National Bank, and the Resource Bank in Genoa, Illinois. Ramos also admitted that his scheme ended up causing losses to businesses in Rockford, Harvard, McHenry, Crystal Lake, and DeKalb, Illinois, and in Wisconsin, and four other states.

In addition to the prison sentence, the court ordered Ramos to serve a period of supervised release of five years following his release from prison, and to pay restitution in the amount of \$782,729 to the various banks and businesses that were defrauded and lost money.

There are outstanding arrest warrants for the three other participants in the scheme, Javier Santos Suarez, Misael Sangabriel Alarcon, and Leonel Bello Leon, who were all previously charged in the indictment.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Each defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving each defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by Rockford office of the FBI. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney Michael D. Love.

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